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LEPROSY.

A NOTE REGARDING THE APPARENT CURE OF TWO LEPERS IN MANILA.

By Victor G. Heiser, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, Chief Quarantine Officer and Director of Health for the Philippine Islands.

Two patients who had been confined to the San Lazaro Leper Hospital on account of leprosy have been pronounced apparently cured and discharged from that institution on probation.

The first case was that of a male Filipino, aged 27, who was admitted to the San Lazaro Leper Hospital, Manila, May 29, 1909. On admission the case clinically showed thickened reddish spots on the nose and thickening and discoloration of the lobe of the right ear. Scrapings made from the lesions showed lepra bacilli. He received vaccine treatment at intervals, beginning August, 1909, but at the expiration of one year no change was noted in his condition. From September, 1910, to November, 1910, crude chaulmugra oil was given by mouth in increasing doses. On account of nausea the administration of the oil by mouth had to be discontinued.

The case showed evidences of improvement. On November 10, 1910, chaulmugra oil combined with oil of camphor and resorcin was given hypodermically. By May 6, 1911, the lesions above described had disappeared and leprosy bacilli were not found in repeated microscopical examinations. The hypodermic treatment was continued and microscopical examinations were made at frequent intervals, but these were always negative. On June 11, 1913, a most careful clinical and microscopical examination was made of the patient, which resulted negatively for leprosy, and as the patient had now been apparently cured for a period of over two years he was discharged on probation.

The other case was that of a Filipino woman, aged 22, who was admitted to San Lazaro Leper Hospital, Manila, January 7, 1910. Clinically this patient presented a suffused countenance due to generalized infiltration. There were red macules over the cheeks, forehead, and chin. Scrapings made from the lesions and examined microscopically were positive for leprosy bacilli.

Upon admission this patient was placed upon the vaccine treatment for a period of five months, but at the end of the first month after her admission crude chaulmugra oil by mouth was given in addition to the vaccine.

After the second month the patient began to improve rapidly, and on May 6, 1911, leprosy bacilli could not be found on microscopical examination. During May, 1911, on account of the nausea caused by the oil its use by mouth had to be discontinued. Hypodermic injection of chaulmugra oil combined with camphor and resorcin was then begun. This treatment was continued, and frequent

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microscopical examinations were made from time to time, all of which resulted negatively. The last examination, both clinical and microscopical, was made on June 11, 1913, when no further evidences of leprosy could be found. The patient was therefore discharged from the hospital on probation.

It is not known whether the vaccine treatment had any influence in the cures. There are at the present time a number of other cases at the San Lazaro Leper Hospital that have been negative for a period of 22 months, which, upon admission, presented more marked evidences of leprosy than the cases mentioned above, yet they received only chaulmugra oil either by mouth or hypodermically, or in both ways.